

THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. XVIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 11TH, 1891.

NUMBER 32

WILSON, SONS & CO. (LIMITED)

2, PRAÇA DAS MARINHAS
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WM. GEO. ABBOTT, Consul General.

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Residence: Rua de Petropolis N. 2.
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Dr. C. Feldhagen, Surgeon and Accoucher. Cons. from 2 to 4. Praça General Osório, No. 63. Res. Rua Marquez de Abranches No. 57. Telephone 1136. 6 m.

Dr. Oliveira Agular, Physician. Residence: Praça Duque de Caxias No. 59. Telephone 1147. Office: Rua do Ouvidor No. 143; hours from 2 to 3 p. m.

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CAIXA DO CORREIO 248.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN FINANCIER

of LONDON, PARIS and NEW YORK.

S. LEVY LAWSON, Editor and Proprietor,

Chesterfield House—Great Tower Street, LONDON, E. C.

17 Rua de Paradis PARIS.

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Telephone: No. 129.

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Reserve fund... £1,328,751 ..
Uncalled capital. £2,400,751 ..

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42 RUA DO HOSPICIO

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do realized..... 7,500,000\$000
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June 1891.

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THE RIO NEWS

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A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock
quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a sum-
mary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Com-
mercial, a synopsis of the monthly balances of local banks,
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on Brazilian trade.

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All subscriptions should run with the calendar year, or
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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

79, Rua Sete de Setembro

RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 11th, 1891.

The action of the Chamber of Deputies
commission in recommending a reconsi-
deration of the contract for sanitary improve-
ments in this city in order to submit the
questions involved to fuller study, is one
which merits the warmest approbation. It
may be prejudicial to delay action for any
length of time, but the chances are that
hasty, ill-considered action will be even
worse. However great the necessity for
improving the sanitary condition of the city,
there is certainly no urgency that will war-
rant the waste of millions in experiments
and doubtful schemes. There is much that
can be done from day to day—and which
ought to be done without one moment's
delay—which will interfere with no general
plan of improvements and which must be
done no matter what scheme is adopted.
Certain old streets must be widened and
straightened, pavements must be mended or
re-laid, filthy streets and pestilential tenement
houses must be cleaned, and proper
steps must be taken to drive out infectious
diseases by prompt measures. Under exist-
ing conditions nothing is done to check the
spread of a disease until it is too late. The
men usually entrusted with the work know
absolutely nothing of sanitary engineering
and are therefore always inclined to waste
valuable time and unlimited funds in absurd
experiments or mercenary jobs. All this
can and should be changed without delay,
no matter what the fate of this particular
scheme for cementing the streets may be.

The extraordinary delay in presenting the budget estimates to the Chamber of Deputies is causing just indignation to such of the native press as consider economic questions of more importance than the attacks upon and defense of the present secretaries of President Fonseca. The delay may be only the incurable *espero um pouco* of the public departments, to which all residents of Brazil have to submit; or it may result from some intention of concealing accounts, that the notorious extravagance of the provisional government may not appear in all its bareness—a slight veil to be interposed by introducing that curious feature of Brazilian finances which permits a fiscal year covering eighteen months of revenue. The present minister of finance can hardly be suspected of any desire to shield Gen. Barbosa from public criticism, unless affairs at the Treasury were found to be in such a condition that a full exposition would damage the credit of the country, but Barão de Lucena must have enough experience of financial affairs to know that every day's delay in presenting his estimates creates increased suspicion as to the motives of such delay. It would be infinitely preferable to place before Congress the actual state of the Treasury, and to leave to this the duty of providing measures for the recovery of misapplied funds, or illicit trafficking in the nation's credit—if it can be proved that such exist—than to keep the country in a state of suspense, and thus lead to the suspicion of practices of personal aggrandizement that may possibly be entirely without foundation. Two months of the congressional session are past, and no budgets are presented to the legislature. Let Barão de Lucena exert his recognized activity and present his balance sheet without further delay.

PERHAPS it is impolitic to anticipate trouble in connection with the acts of a young and inexperienced government, because such a course may serve to raise difficulties and to excite distrust. Anticipating an evil, however, furnishes the best means of providing against it, and to that end we must invite the attention of those who are more interested in building up a rational and prosperous government than in supporting the fortunes of a few individuals. We are now enduring, as best we can, the evils of abnormally low rates of exchange—the lowest the country has seen since the Paraguayan war. There is no war, nor other public calamity draining our resources; the country is, and has long been enjoying profound peace. Immigration is flowing in, the country never had a larger laboring population, and she never had a better prospect for large and profitable crops. And yet, notwithstanding all this, we now have an exchange rate fluctuating between 15 and 16 pence, the costs of living have risen fully 50 per cent, rents have advanced, and even the prices of domestic products have gone up fully as much as those affected by the rate of exchange. All this means that Brazil has become an exceptionally expensive country to live in. For one reason, or another, this country is very largely dependent upon the outside world for what the people need to make life enjoyable. Their food and clothing, their luxuries and amusements nearly all come from abroad. Flour, rice, dried beef, potatoes, hats, silks, cottons, machinery, tools, furniture and a hundred other necessary things all figure in the list of imports, and every *centavo* added to their cost must come out of the people and add to their burdens. It is therefore a matter of importance to them when the costs of these imported goods are increased, whether by higher rates, or through a lower exchange, or through payment of duties in gold. While we fully believe in the principle of collecting import duties in gold, this should never be made an unnecessary tax upon the people, nor an extra burden upon their resources. The exceptional position in which Brazil is placed renders it necessary to apply this principle in such a manner that the people will suffer no new hardship through its application. In the United States the people were not dependent upon the outside world either for food or clothing, and their attention was therefore rarely ever called to gold duties as a cause of high prices. Here the contrary is the rule, and the collection of duties in gold at such a time as this can not fail to seriously affect their means of living. In view of this, we believe that the government should take this question of gold duties into mature consideration before trying to enforce the new order which is to go into effect on October

1st. We know that much hardship among poor people has been caused by these high prices and that widespread discontent prevails. A little more and we shall have strikes and riots, and possibly something even worse. It will be wise, therefore, to think well before adding another ten or twenty per cent to the costs of living, for it may be the one straw needed to bring down the whole structure about our ears. If the government considers it necessary to have the gold, then let it apply to Congress at once for permission to lower the schedule rates levied on imports while exchange shall continue below 20 pence. A reduction of 25 to 40 per cent would give immeasurable relief to the country, and would still keep the revenue above what the receipts were estimated at in the last budget. The minister has again and again stated that the collection of duties in gold was not designed to increase the revenue, or customs taxation, hence there can be no reversal of policy in a measure designed to keep the costs of living within the means of the people. A full treasury wrung from the little earnings of an impoverished people is the most dangerous possession that any country can have.

SANTOS ATHLETIC CLUB.

The second meeting of the sports of the above club was held on August 2nd.

At a very early hour we found the most energetic members very busy making a quarter of a mile straight course with some hundred club flags. Upon returning from breakfast, about noon, we were struck with the gay scene, the two club tents with the Brazilian, English and American flags denoting the winning post.

Punctual to the time stated in the programme the bell was rung for the first event and excellent time was kept throughout the day.

The events were as follows:—

100 yds Flat Race—Handicap (members only).
G. O. Temple, 3/4 yds., 1st prize, waiter.
H. Fussell, scratch, 2nd prize, cigarette case.
Time, 11 secs.

Long Jump—T. Aldred, prize, cup, 16 ft. 5 in.
Throwing Cricket Ball—H. Tross, prize, cup, 76 yds.

Quarter Mile Flat Race—Handicap (members only). G. O. Temple, 1st prize, part gilt goblet.
A. L. Tweedie, 2nd prize, leather pocket-book.
Time 55 secs.

High Jump—F. H. Gepp, prize, cup, 4 ft. 6 in.
Putting the Weight—F. H. Gepp, prize, cup, 32 ft. 10 in.

120 yds. Flat Race—
H. Fussell, 1st prize, part gilt goblet.
G. O. Temple, 2nd prize, silver pencil-case.
Time, 1 1/2 mins.

Pole Jump—A. Harley, prize, cup, 8 ft. 6 in.

Hand Race—F. H. Gepp, prize, cup, 20 secs.

Sack Race—C. Lloyd, prize, cup.

Jackey Race—H. Fussell and D. O. Macnicol, prize, cigarette cases.

Three-legged Race—Wm. Fletcher, Jr. and H. Estell, prize, cigarette cases.

Married Men's Race—C. E. Demarest, prize, cup.

Half Mile—H. Barton, 1st prize, waiter.
C. W. Young, 2nd prize, cigarette case.
Time, 2 min. 38 secs.

Consolation Race—P. S. Barber, prize, cup.
At 4 p.m. in the club marquee the prizes were graciously distributed by Mrs. Mounier, the wife of our esteemed president. With three cheers for the ladies and another for Mr. Sell (our most energetic treasurer) and Mrs. Sell, who most kindly made the flags, the day's proceedings were brought to a close.

X.

Santos, 6th August, 1891.

STATE ORGANIZATION.

According to the *Davio Oficial* of the 4th, 18 of the 20 states forming the Brazilian republic had elected their governors, or, as they are called in some cases, presidents, viz:

AMAZONAS.—President, Dr. Gregorio Thaumaturgo de Azevedo, elected June 30th.
PARA.—Governor, Dr. Lauro Sodré, elected June 24th.

MARANHÃO.—Governor, Dr. Laureano Augusto de Sá e Albuquerque, elected June 14th.
PARANÁ.—Governor, Dr. Gabriel Luiz Ferreira, elected May 27th.

CEARÁ.—Governor, Gen. José Clarindo de Queiroz, elected May 7th.

RIO GRANDE DO NORTE.—Governor, Dr. Miguel Joaquim de Almeida Castro, elected June 12th.

PARAÍBA.—Governor, Dr. Venancio Augusto de Magalhães Neiva, elected June 25th.

PERNAMBUCO.—Governor, Barão de Lucena, elected June 17th.

ALAGOAS.—Governor, Col. Pedro Paulino da Fonseca, elected June 11th.

SERGIPE.—Governor, Col. Vincente Luiz de Oliveira Ribeiro, elected June 8th.

BAHIA.—Governor, Dr. José Gonçalves da Silva, elected July 2nd.

ESPÍRITO SANTO.—Governor, Barão de Montalvão, elected June 6th.

RIO DE JANEIRO.—Governor, Dr. Francisco Portella, elected May 11th.

S. PAULO.—President, Dr. Americo Braziliense de Almeida Mello, elected June 9th.

PARANÁ.—President, Dr. Geceroso Marques dos Santos, elected June 2nd.

SANTA CATARINA.—Governor, Dr. Lauro Severiano Muller, elected June 11th.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL.—Governor, Dr. Julio Prates de Castilhos, elected July 14th.

MINAS GERAES.—Governor, Dr. Jose Cesar de Faria e Silva, elected June 15th.

The remaining two states, Goyaz and Mato Grosso, are still governed by delegates of the general government.

RIO HARBOR MISSION.

The inauguration of a second mission for this port took place at No. 10, Rua da Imperatriz on the 2nd and 3rd inst. On Sunday services were held at the hotel by Rev. H. C. Tucker, which were well attended in spite of the unfavorable weather. On Monday, the 3rd, a public meeting was held, on which occasion Mr. Edward Wesson explained the character of the work proposed and the steps taken during the past year in this end. Addresses were also made by Messrs. Rogers, McFarland and Homer on the subject of port mission work.

It is designed to open a reading-room at the mission during the current week, and donations of books, periodicals and newspapers will be thankfully received. Subscriptions and donations of money for current expenses will also be gratefully received. The mission is headed under the auspices of the British and Foreign Sailors Society of London and the American Seamen's Friend Society of New York. The reading-room will be open from 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. every day, and religious services in English will be held on Sundays at 7 p. m. and on Mondays at 7:30 p. m.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

On the 8th the *Tempo* published the following telegram:

"Pelotas, August 7.
"The opposition leaders in this state held in this city an important meeting, which was attended by Visconde de Pelotas, who came from Porto Alegre, Barão de Itaquí, from Bagé, Barão de S. Luiz and Santa Fe de and other prominent leaders. "Nothing has been divulged as to what took place at this meeting.

"Visconde de Pelotas and Barão de Itaquí deny that they came to attend the meeting and say that their coming was due to private motives.

"General Astrogilho, the political leader at Jaguari, was represented at the meeting.

"The opposition has recently displayed great activity, sending emissaries to different parts of the state.

"Visconde de Pelotas, notwithstanding the state of his health, is in constant movement.

"These events coincide with the attitude of the opposition press since the election of Dr. Julio de Castilhos to the office of governor of the state. It has published violent attacks, telling the people that they have to choose between slavery and revolution."

On the same day that paper published the following:

"Porto Alegre, Aug. 7.
"It is currently reported in this city that the smugglers, whose interests have suffered with the establishment of a fiscal cordão on the frontier, are preparing for an insurrection in the southern part of the state, if that cordão is not removed."

Commenting on these telegrams, the *Tempo* says that, taken in connection with the state of affairs in Rio Grande, they lead to the well grounded belief that public order will be disturbed in that state. Powerful reasons urge on the people of Rio Grande, it says, to induce them to resist the unwarranted intervention of the general government in the affairs of the state and to defend their right to self-government. And the feeling which thus inspires them, adds that paper, is shared by the people of other states, deprived, like Rio Grande, of the right to manage their affairs as they see best. Besides, it says, the interests of the people on the frontier are opposed to the fiscal cordão that has been established to prevent smuggling. The *Tempo* thinks that the revolutionary movement is encouraged by the merchants of Montevideo interested in illicit trade across the boundary between the two countries and believes that depots of arms for the revolutionists have been established in Uruguay near the line, so that these arms may be carried into Rio Grande at a moment's notice.

"If these reports are much deceived by the reports we have received," concludes the *Tempo*, "or in a few days a revolution will break out in Rio Grande do Sul."

For a long time, as our readers are aware, reports have persistently circulated in regard to a projected revolution any moment in Rio Grande, and the uneasiness of the authorities in that state is shown by what we take from a local journal and publish in another part of this paper in regard to occurrences at Santa Anna do Livramento. Besides, a telegram of the 6th, published in the *Paz*, alludes to the anxiety caused to the people of Porto Alegre by the assembling of troops at that place and by the military organization which has been given to the police force.

In addition to all this it is known that considerable discontent was caused among the troops in Rio Grande by the promotions made in the army in January 1890, and it is believed that the discontent thus engendered has never entirely disappeared. There are nearly 6,000 troops in that state and, if the majority of these should side with the revolutionists, they would constitute a pretty large nucleus for the organization of the revolutionary force.

At the present time, in view of the general discontent throughout the country, a revolution in Rio Grande would be a very serious event.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The retail merchants of Montevideo have resolved not to sell on credit until the financial situation improves.

—The Chilean revolutionists have protested against the sale of an armament of the steamer *Agulha* in the port of Buenos Aires.

—The merchants of Buenos Aires are talking about a petition against the government to let projected bank schemes alone.

—The Russian Jews sent to Argentina by Baron Hirsch are beginning to arrive at Buenos Aires.

—The Argentine government is now proposing to sell the state railways. Something must be done to give a new source of official commissions.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 6th says that the government is trying to obtain a loan of two millions to pay debts of the past year. It is a very serious state of things where so rich a country can not pay its expenses in times of profound peace!

—The total liabilities of the four branches of the English Bank of the River Plate in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rosario and Salto Oriental, are \$9,536,622 in gold and \$202,674 paper; the assets amount to \$11,805,043 gold and \$9,834,886 paper.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 8th states that a report is current there in the effect that the Banco Popular (Credito Popular?) of Rio de Janeiro has presented a proposal for the purchase of the privilege of the Banco Nacional de Uruguay. It looks like a case of the hind leading the lame.

—A Buenos Aires telegram of the 6th inst. announces the arrival there on the *Amacaya* of officers, sailors and arms for the steamer *Agulha*, recently purchased for the Balmaceda government. As the Argentine Congress recently invited the government to maintain the strictest neutrality it will be interesting to observe whether the arming of the *Agulha* will be permitted.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

AUGUST 1.—Senate.—The committee on grants and public works reported in favor of granting an exclusive privilege to Dr. Pedro Souto Major and José Estaquín Ferreira Jacolina for navigating the River Madeira between Santo Antonio and a point at 10° 20' S.L., near the mouth of the river Beni. As a mark of respect for the memory of deceased Senator Serrano the Senate adjourned to the following day. Chamber of Deputies.—Deputy Ottonica spoke in regard to affairs in Alagoas in which the lieutenant-governor persists in holding office, although he has since his election been appointed judge, thus violating the state constitution, which establishes incompatibility between the two offices. In connection with his colleague, Deputy Galdino Besouro, he moved that the committee on legislation be instructed to frame a law in regard to the evolution of state constitutions in default of a state court for judging such cases. Deputy Pires Ferreira introduced a bill in regard to the organization of the army and Deputy Retamba a bill annexing the meteorological bureau to the hydrographic bureau. Deputy Epitacio spoke in defence of Barão de Lucena. Deputy Cesar de Motta protested against the railway grants illegally made by the general government in the state of S. Paulo. There are, he says, no less than six of these grants, viz: the road from S. João to Santos; that from Araraquara to Mato Grosso; that from Paraty to Iguaçu; that from Amparo to Toulaité; the extension of the Bragança road to Santos and the Cruzaria road. S. Paulo, he says, loves the union, but it is able to live alone and the whole people, without distinction of party, demands that the rights of the state shall be respected. The chamber rejected the amendment of the Senate to the bill making an appropriation for the pay of senators and deputies. The constitutional bill passed with some amendments in 3rd discussion. Deputy Aristides Lobo spoke in defence of the bill for limiting the powers of governors of unorganized states. Deputies Baptista da Matta, Barão and Gonçalves Chaves spoke on the bill prohibiting the use of titles and decorations.

AUGUST 3.—Senate.—The Senate, by a vote of 34 to 2, sustained its amendment to the bill making an appropriation for the pay of senators and deputies. Senator Generoso Marques defended the collection of import duties by the state of Paraná. Senator Americo Lobo offered a resolution for restoring the property confiscated at the time of the rebellion of 1793. The bill for the compulsory retirement of military officers passed in 2nd discussion, Art. 3 being rejected. Chamber of Deputies.—Deputy Custodio de Mello introduced a bill on nominations in the navy. Deputy Franca Cardus introduced a bill for maintaining the life tenure of judicial officers in the whole union. On motion of Deputy Bernardino de Campos, chairman of the special committee on the boundary treaty, the chamber resolved to meet on Thursday in committee of the whole for the purpose of hearing the explanations of the negotiator of that treaty. Deputies Antonio Azevedo and Caetano de Albuquerque moved that the government be asked to furnish information in regard to the disturbances in Mato Grosso. Deputy Fonseca Heimes spoke in defence of President Deodoro. Art. 1 of the bill for limiting the powers of governors of unorganized states passed in 1st discussion. Deputy Gabino Besouro, in speaking of Lieut. Amílcar Cardoso, appealed to all good republicans to rally around the republic which, he says, appears to be labouring in the throes of dissolution.

AUGUST 4.—Senate.—A communication was received from the minister of finance stating that the amount of gold sold in the custom-house of this city was \$2,203,391, producing 29,871,191 \$644. The government's profit being 9,394,045 \$615. Senator Catandu called attention to the expediency of a speedy report from the special committee for framing an electoral law. Senator Saraiva stated that the senators on the committee had already agreed and Senator Ubaldino do Amaral said that he thought the joint committee would be ready to report during the coming week. Senator Americo Lobo offered a substitute for the bill on government property. The president, considering this substitute unconstitutional, declared that he could only permit its discussion as an amendment to the constitution. Senator Americo Lobo then moved that the bill be referred to the committee on finance, and the motion was voted by the senate. Chamber of Deputies.—Deputy Felisbello Freire introduced a bill, signed by himself and others, fixing the boundaries of the state of Sergipe. Deputy Alcindo Guanabara protested against the views of the minister of agriculture in regard to railway legislation and moved that the communication from the minister on this subject be referred

In the death notice given in our last issue the name of the deceased was given wrongly. It should have been Walter William Tross.

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